TELECONFERENCE OF HEALTHSOUTH CORPORATION

3D QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

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MR. SCRUSHY: Thank you very much and I'd like to thank everyone for dialing in today the HealthSouth third quarter conference call. I'd like to begin by stating that third quarter was a challenging quarter for the company. The introduction of Transmittal 1753 certainly had an impact on the company. We had the negative press, a lot of bad press on the company, which created some problems for us in terms of referrals, and so we took a hit in that particular area.

percent. That's excluding divestitures

versus third quarter of last year. The

impact, really where we were hurt the most,

was in the outpatient area. We had a 14

percent reduction in volume resulting in

about a 17 percent reduction in revenue

decline. This, of course, was due to lower

reimbursement, the Transmittal 1753 impact,

which that shows up in the pricing. Bill

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Owens will talk about that in a moment,
which is about an 11 percent reduction in
pricing. So you had a 14 percent reduction
in volume driving a 17 percent reduction in
revenue in that particular area. But
there's a lot of good news we're going to
talk about as well in other divisions, and
we'll walk you through that in a moment and
go through all the statistics.

As we had a lower revenue number we had an increase in our A.R. days. But if we were able to keep those revenues flat we would have shown only a very slight increase. We had about an \$18.5 million increase in A.R., so our reduction, if we hadn't have had -- without the reduction in revenue we would have had about an 80.5 days in A.R. But with the reduction it actually drove it up to 86.5.

Now there were a lot of positives in this challenging quarter. Outside of the outpatient rehab all of the business lines

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had higher revenues versus third quarter of last year. Inpatient revenue was actually up 12 percent versus third quarter of last year. Same-store volume growth and inpatient diagnostic and surgery, we had double-digit growth in inpatient revenues.

Now pricing increased over third quarter of last year in the inpatient and in the surgery area. I think something very important here is that the company had a net debt reduction of \$111 million in the quarter even after buying back \$31 million of our stock. Obviously we were in the market buying stock back as our pricing went down. So we would have pushed \$140-plus million in debt reduction had we not spent the \$31 million on our stock. So very strong in that respect and so there are some very good positives here that I think we need to take a look at.

Now I want to ask Bill Owens, our CEO, to walk through the financial

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